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OCI No. 2431/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 January 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Consequences of Tshombé's Removal
from Katanga

1. Tshombé's removal from the Katangan scene would involve a number of serious dangers. The principal ones appear to be: the outbreak of fighting on a large scale between pro- and anti-Tshombé tribes; the advent to local power of extreme anti-European elements; and wanton attacks on the white population and its property, including the mining installations. The ensuing chaos might well require the UN to undertake to administer the area itself, although neither the UN staff nor the Congo Government in Leopoldville is presently equipped for this job.

2. Recent developments in Katanga have not essentially affected Tshombé's position as the only person in Katanga capable of preventing the clash of opposing tribal groups. He is the leader of the dominant tribal grouping in southern Katanga and has the authority to control dissident elements within this grouping. His removal would be likely to set these forces against each other, and to encourage the intervention of still other tribes, outside Tshombé's present control, in the situation.

3. Tshombé is also the only person capable of dominating the extremists in the Katanga regime who oppose any kind of cooperation with the UN or with European states or institutions, including the Union Minière. His removal thus probably would permit power to pass to this extremist element, which is headed by Interior Minister Munongo. Munongo is a fanatic who has said many

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times that he is prepared to destroy modern Katanga and take to the bush rather than see the UN or the Congo central army take over the area. At best, the UN probably would find that in Tshombé's absence it had no one with whom it could negotiate.

4. If Tshombé's removal had these consequences, a major immediate result would be general exodus by the European population, almost certainly including the mercenary element which has provided the minimum discipline demonstrated by the Katangan army and gendarmerie. A breakdown of security would create a situation resembling Leopoldville in July 1960, probably involving rapes and killings--and political side-effects in Belgium and the UK. Pressure would become very strong for European elements in the Rhodesias to intervene.

5. Even without such a development, the disorganization of the European community in Katanga could produce a situation in which the only administrative element left would be the UN. The UN does not now appear capable of undertaking the administration of Katanga; it lacks the necessary personnel and under the circumstances would probably find it very difficult to recruit them, at least from Western countries. UN military forces would probably be equally hard pressed to maintain order in the face of large-scale disorders with the troops it now has or could expect under present circumstances to get.

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